



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



Praying for Unity

A PRAYER GUIDE FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION SUNDAY

THE PICTURE PAINTED IN REVELATION 7:9 IS ONE OF beauty and unity: A great multitude “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” will one day stand before the throne and worship the Lord. It’s a portrait of what our churches should begin to look like today, but often, our economic, ethnic, racial, and a host of other differences divide us. Though the Bible does not call us to uniformity, it does call us to unity so that the Church’s allegiance to Christ might be known by our love for one another. Let’s pray to this end, asking God to break down the dividing walls of hostility (Eph. 2:14) that still exist today.

How to pray for unity

Here are a few prompts to help you in your own prayer time, as you gather with your family, or as you lead your church.

The Church

“... so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10 ESV).

- Pray for the Body of Christ, that we would love one another across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences.
- Ask that the Holy Spirit would use those differences to sanctify us and make our churches a display of God’s beauty.
- Pray that our churches would be places where every person is valued and celebrated as made in God’s image.
- Pray that our love, as the Body of Christ, across racial, ethnic, and cultural lines, serves as a gospel witness to unbelievers.



Communities

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jer. 29:7, ESV).

- Pray for communities especially affected by racism in various forms. Ask the Lord to bring healing, reconciliation, and a spirit of unity.
- Pray that community leaders would have wisdom from above as they lead citizens in what is good, right, and true.

Lawmakers and leaders

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Tim. 2:1–2, ESV).

- Pray for those in positions of power and influence at the local, state, and national levels. Ask that God would grant them wisdom and courage to enact and uphold laws that help and value the dignity of every life.
- Pray that their words and tone would be gracious, full of truth, and foster unity.

Pastors

“... shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Pet. 5:2–4, ESV)

- Pray for pastors to have wisdom to shepherd their congregations through any issues related to racism and to a place of unity.
- Pray for pastors to have the boldness to proclaim the truth of the gospel and its impact on all aspects of life and relationships.
- Pray for the protection of pastors and their families as they face spiritual warfare because of their faithfulness to the gospel ministry.
- Pray for the hearts of our pastors, that they would love what our Lord loves and hate what he hates.

We believe that through prayer, hearts can be changed, lives can be saved, and unity can be accomplished. Together, let us petition the Lord for his wisdom, mercy, and intervention as we seek to push back against racism in every form and uphold the dignity and beauty of all people as made in God’s image.

